

**The Twin Roman Catholic Parishes of  
St. Agnes & St. Anthony  
PENTECOST SUNDAY YEAR B  
MAY 23, 2021**



**St. Anthony**  
10661-82 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T6E 2A6  
Ph: 780- 432-0611  
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**St. Agnes**  
10826-62 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T6H 1N1  
Ph: 780- 432-0611

**Office Hours: Monday – Friday  
9:00 am – 12 Noon and 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**  
E-Mail: [stanthony.edm@caedm.ca](mailto:stanthony.edm@caedm.ca)  
Parish website: [twinparishes.caedm.ca](http://twinparishes.caedm.ca)

**St. Agnes & St. Anthony Joint Mission Statement**

As sharers in the mission of Jesus Christ, we are committed to spreading the Gospel and building up the kingdom of God in our homes, in our parishes, and in the communities in which we live.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Parish office is closed on Monday, May 24<sup>th</sup> for Victoria Day.
- Contact the parish office for registration for the weekend and weekday masses.
- NO Adoration at St. Anthony until further notice.
- NO Meeting, and other activities in the church & meeting rooms until further notice.
- For Funerals contact the parish office 780-432-0611

Contact the parish office at 780-432-0611 for registration of First Reconciliation, First Holy Eucharist, Confirmation and RCIA. All the class sessions will start on October 2021.

Anyone who wants to become Catholics and Catholics who are 15 years old & above that have not yet received First Communion and Confirmation, and interested in learning more about RCIA please contact the parish office 780-432-0611.

**St. Agnes & St. Anthony Parish Staff:**

**Pastor** Rev. Varghese Munduvelil CFIC  
**Deacon** Guy Germain  
**Deacon** Michael Pucylo  
**Deacon** Ramon Morales  
**Business Manager** Don Wong  
**Administrative Assistant** Florentina Suce  
**Custodian (St. Anthony)** Ray Wagner  
**Custodian (St. Agnes)** Bruce Huynh

**Twin Parishes Financial Pulse**

		<b>Full Year</b>		
<b>May 15/16</b>		<b>Actual</b>	<b>YTD</b>	<b>Budget</b>
<b>Sunday, Holy Day</b>	\$	1,920	\$117,798	\$375,000
<b>Building Maint. Fund</b>	\$	95	\$7,385	\$ 30,000
<b>Together We Serve</b>	\$	210	\$10,405	\$ 51,600

*“You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.” 2Cor 9:12*

**Twin Parishes Masses for the Week**

<b>Tuesday, May 25</b> Mass @ St. Anthony	7:00 pm
<b>Wednesday, May 26</b> Mass @ St. Anthony	6:15 PM
<b>Thursday, May 27</b> Mass @ St. Agnes	9:00 am
<b>Friday, May 28</b> Mass St. Agnes	9:00 am
<b>Saturday, May 29</b> Mass St. Agnes Mass St. Anthony	5:00 pm 7:30 pm
<b>Sunday, May 30</b> Mass @ St. Agnes Mass @ St. Anthony Mass @ St. Agnes	9:00 am 10:30 am 12:00 Noon

**DONATE BUTTON**

Parish website: [twinparishes.caedm.ca](http://twinparishes.caedm.ca)  
Here are three ways to give:

St. Agnes and St. Anthony would prefer if you use:  
[Pre-Authorized Giving Agreement Form](#)

Envelopes can be dropped off or mailed to the parish office at:

**St. Anthony,**  
10661-82 Avenue NW Edmonton,  
AB T6E 2A6

**My Offering**

Donate online:

Thank you for being a good steward of St. Agnes/St. Anthony Parish.  
Every gift is truly appreciated.

**May 23, 2021- Scott Hahn Reflects on the  
PENTECOST SUNDAY**

**First Reading – Acts 2:1-11**

**Psalms 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34**

**Second Reading – 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13**

**Gospel – John 20:19-23**

The giving of the Spirit to the new people of God crowns the mighty acts of the Father in salvation history.

The Jewish feast of Pentecost called all devout Jews to Jerusalem to celebrate their birth as God's chosen people in the covenant Law given to Moses at Sinai (see Leviticus 23:15–21; Deuteronomy 16:9–11).

In today's First Reading, the mysteries prefigured in that feast are fulfilled in the pouring out of the Spirit on Mary and the Apostles (see Acts 1:14).

The Spirit seals the new law and new covenant brought by Jesus, written not on stone tablets but on the hearts of believers, as the prophets promised (see Jeremiah 31:31–34; 2 Corinthians 3:2–8; Romans 8:2).

The Spirit is revealed as the life-giving breath of the Father, the Wisdom by which He made all things, as we sing in today's Psalm.

In the beginning, the Spirit came as a "mighty wind" sweeping over the face of the earth (see Genesis 1:2). And in the new creation of Pentecost, the Spirit again comes as "a strong, driving wind" to renew the face of the earth.

As God fashioned the first man out of dust and filled him with His Spirit (see Genesis 2:7), in today's Gospel we see the New Adam become a life-giving Spirit, breathing new life into the Apostles (see 1 Corinthians 15:45, 47).

Like a river of living water, for all ages He will pour out His Spirit on His body, the Church, as we hear in today's Epistle (see also John 7:37–39).

We receive that Spirit in the sacraments, being made a "new creation" in Baptism (see 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 6:15).

Drinking of the one Spirit in the Eucharist (see 1 Corinthians 10:4), we are the first fruits of a new humanity—fashioned from out of every nation under heaven, with no distinctions of wealth or language or race, a people born of the Spirit.

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**Registering for FORMED is easier than ever:**

1. Go to [formed.org/signup](http://formed.org/signup); click the 3rd button: I belong to a parish organization.
2. Select your parish: Enter Postal Code T6E 2A6 and select St. Anthony from the dropdown menu.
3. Register with your name and email address
4. Check that email account for a link to begin using FORMED.

**Pope Francis Corner**



**And the Joy of  
Family Life Daily  
Reflections**

**Protecting Free Time**

At a time when we most need a missionary dynamism which will bring salt and light to the world, many laypeople fear that they may be asked to undertake some apostolic work and they seek to avoid any responsibility that may take away from their free time. For example, it has become very difficult today to find trained parish catechists willing to persevere in this work for some years. Something similar is also happening with priests who are obsessed with protecting their free time. This is frequently due to the fact that people feel an overbearing need to guard their personal freedom, as though the task of evangelization was a dangerous poison rather than a joyful response to God's love which summons us to mission and makes us fulfilled and productive.

- *Evangelii Gaudium*

**Reflection:** *How do you view your free time? As a possession to be guarded so that you can enjoy an inordinate amount of comfort? Are you willing to be renewed and refreshed by giving your time instead of trying to protect it?*

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*Echo Maria Hieu Berkes*

*Aaron Nathaniel Dias*

*Dakota Juliana Fay Dias*

*Congratulations to all who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this Saturday May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021. Heavenly Father, You sent your Spirit to transform the Apostles into heroes of evangelical strength on the day of Pentecost. Thank you for granting that same Spirit to our children in the Sacrament of Confirmation. Pour down upon him/her the sevenfold gifts of the Spirit that he/she may more closely resemble Jesus and be an intrepid witness in the world to You and your Divine Son. Amen!*

## PENTECOST SUNDAY [B]

Acts 2:1-11; Gal 5:16-25; John 15:26-27; 16:12-15



One of the popular plays of William Shakespeare is "The Merchant of Venice." Antonio, a successful merchant of Venice got into trouble because of his generosity. His friend Bassanio requested him to lend him some money. Antonio agreed, but, as all of his assets were tied up at sea they went to Shylock, a Jewish moneylender. Shylock agreed to lend them 3000 ducats, but only if Antonio would sign a bond offering a pound of his flesh if the loan was not repaid in three months' time. Antonio assented to the arrangement.

Unfortunately Antonio was not able to keep his word. The case reached the court. Shylock refused Bassanio's offer of 6,000 ducats, twice the amount of the loan. He demanded his pound of flesh from Antonio. Everyone present at the scene pleaded for the life of Antonio. But Shylock was adamant that he wanted the will to be carried out. Thus the court must allow Shylock to extract the pound of flesh. At that very moment, a young lawyer made his appearance to defend the case of Antonio. He argued that the bond allowed Shylock to remove only the *flesh*, not any drop of "blood", of Antonio. Thus, if Shylock were to shed any drop of Antonio's blood, his "lands and goods" would be forfeited under Venetian laws.

The young lawyer stepped in at a moment when Antonio was in utter hopelessness. He was sure that he would lose his life. But his arguments and reasoning brought hope to Antonio. He began to be reassured. The

presence of an Advocate brought great change in Antonio.

The disciples of Jesus too were in great hopelessness after the ascension of Jesus. The message of resurrection gave them hope and courage. However, it lasted only for forty days. Again after the Ascension they confined themselves behind closed doors.

Then came the great miracle. They found the great advocate in their midst. The Spirit of God descended upon them like tongues of fire. It rekindled their hopes and ignited their courage. It transformed the ignorant men into possessors of divine Wisdom. It transformed the cowards into heroes and desperate men into dreamers.

The Biblical writer employed fire to describe the presence of God. Yahweh manifested Himself in the form of fire on many different occasions. Abraham saw the passing of a smoking fire pot and a flashing torch. And Abraham knew that God had descended to establish a covenant with him (Gen. 15:17). God appeared to Moses in Mount Horeb in a flame of fire. (Ex. 3:2-4). During the Exodus of the chosen people from the land of slavery to the promised land the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud and by night in a pillar of fire (Ex. 13:21). God descended on Mount Sinai to give the Ten Commandments in fire and smoke. (Ex. 19:18). When Monoah and his wife offered burnt offerings the Lord descended to the Altar in flames. (Judg. 13:20). And fire came down from heaven at the consecration of Solomon's Temple.

When Yahweh expressed His desire to be among the children of Israel, He manifested Himself as smoke and fire. The descending of the Spirit on the Apostles in form of fire serves as the symbol of divine presence among the Apostles. Besides being present among them the Spirit of the Lord showered its gifts on the Apostles.

Primarily, the Spirit re-established unity. Many accounts of the breach of Unity between

God and Men are given in the Bible. All of them were caused by man's pride. In Genesis we read the story of the Tower of Babel. The people of the earth became skilled in construction and decided to build a city with a tower that would reach to heaven. By building the tower they wanted to make a name for themselves and also prevent their city from being scattered. God came to see their city and the tower they were building. He perceived their evil intentions, men were proud and they wanted to challenge God. So God confused their language. They spoke to one another as they used to, but they understood differently. On the day of Pentecost the spirit of God has re-established unity. People spoke different languages, but everyone understood in his language. Difference in language makes it difficult for people to communicate with one another. But the early Christians were able to grasp the meaning of each other's message, because they spoke the language of love, the language of understanding, the language of selflessness, and the language of kindness. The feast of Pentecost demands from us that we should get united with God. Edmund Bruke wrote, "Whatever disunites man from God also disunites man from man." Once we establish our unity with God we can strengthen the unity at home, in the parish, in the place of our work, and in our society; among the members of the family, among our colleagues, among the members of our parish, and among all whom we come across. Secondly, the Spirit brought courage. At the trial scene Peter disowned Jesus and swore that he did not know him. But after receiving the spirit the same Peter proclaimed aloud the message of Jesus and called the people to repentance. The Spirit blesses us too with courage. When we accept it we too will be able to make our contribution to better the world. The words of Hellen Keller are noteworthy. "I long to

accomplish a great and noble tasks, but it is my chief duty to accomplish humble tasks as though they were great and noble. The world is moved along, not only by the mighty shoves of its heroes, but also by the aggregate of the tiny pushes of each honest worker."

Thirdly, the spirit brought the light of knowledge to the Apostles. When Jesus was speaking to them of his agony and suffering the disciples were contemplating on as who would be on his right and who would be on his left. They cherished the dreams of the kingdom where Jesus would take over the rule of the Roman Empire. But the descend of the Spirit revealed the meaning of the words of Jesus to them. They knew what their faith would demand of them. They knew what their responsibilities would be. They knew the meaning of Christian love. Their ignorance was wiped out. In the words of William Shakespeare, "Ignorance is the curse of God; knowledge is the wing wherewith we fly to heaven."

According to Kahlil Gibran "Knowledge of the self is the mother of all knowledge. So it is incumbent on me to know myself, to know it completely, to know its minutiae, its characteristics, its subtleties, and its very atoms." The Apostles knew their strength and their weakness. And they accepted the supremacy of the Spirit in their life.

Dear friends the Holy Spirit is present in the Church as an advocate to plead our case. When we become receptive to the gifts of the Spirit the spirit will take its course in us too.

(Reflections of Fr. Lawrence Cap

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#### **Pray to the Spirit**

This is a prayer we must pray every day: "Holy Spirit, make my heart open to the word of God; make my heart open to goodness; make my heart open to the beauty of God every day." I would like to ask everyone a question: how many of you pray every day to the Holy Spirit? There will not be many, but we must fulfill Jesus' wish and pray every day to the Holy Spirit, that he open our hearts to Jesus. *Pope Francis Speaks to our Hearts.*